

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5998

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 7672

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, GR

SUBJ: EX-PRESIDENT PAPADOPOULOS AND OTHER JUNTA

LEADERS ARRESTED

1. BY JOINT DECISION OF MINISTERS OF PUBLIC ORDER AND JUSTICE, EX-PRESIDENT GEORGE PAPADOPOULOS, EX-DEPUTY PREMIERS STYLIANOS PATTAKOS AND NICHOLAOS MAKAREZOS, FORMER KYP CHIEF MICHAEL ROUFOGALIS AND FORMER MINISTER OF SOCIAL SERVICES JOHN LADAS WERE ARRESTED AT HOMES EARLY OCTOBER 23 AND DEPORTED TO ISLAND OF KEA. ACCORDING TO RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT FIVE LEADERS OF APRIL 21, 1967 COUP WERE INVOLVED IN CONSPIRATORIAL ACTIVITIES DISTURBING PUBLIC ORDER AND SECURITY.

2. PUBLIC ORDER MINISTER GHIKAS ISSUED STATEMENT PREVIOUS DAY THAT PAPADOPOULOS WAS PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST EARLIER THIS MONTH BECAUSE EX-PRESIDENT WAS CONSPIRING AGAINST STATE. GHIKAS ADDED THAT SPECIAL GUARD WAS POSTED AROUND FORMER DICTATOR'S VILLA FOR REASONS OF "PUBLIC ORDER AND GENERAL INTEREST." GHIKAS' STATEMENT WAS ENGENDERED REPORTEDLY BY LEGAL PROCEEDINGS INITIATED EARLIER THIS WEEK BY PAPADOPOULOS AGAINST GENDARMERIE GUARD FOR "ILLEGAL DETENTION" (ATHENS 7634). IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT PAPADOPOULOS AND ROUFOGALIS WERE AMONG THIRTY ARMY AND

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POLICE OFFICERS CHARGED OCTOBER 21 BY ATHENS CHIEF

PROSECUTOR FOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR POLYTECHNION INCIDENTS
LAST NOVEMBER. IN ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT RELEVANT TO
LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST PAPADOPOULOS, ATHENS APPEAL COURT
WILL DECIDE TOMORROW WHETHER TO INSTIGATE CRIMINAL
PROCEEDINGS ON CHARGES OF HIGH TREASON AGAINST PAPADOPOULOS
AND OTHER MILITARY LEADERS FOR APRIL 21, 1967 COUP D'ETAT.

3. RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT ADDED THAT ACCORDING TO STATEMENT
RELEASED BY MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ORDER GOG CONTINUES TO
PURSUE ALL SUSPICIOUS MOVEMENTS OF PROTAGONISTS OF
APRIL 21 COUP AND WILL TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENSURE
PEACE AND ORDER PARTICULARLY NOW WHEN COUNTRY IS
LAUNCHED IN POLITICAL PROCESS. STATEMENT NOTED DETENTION
OF FIVE WAS EXECUTED IN INTEREST OF PURSUING JUSTICE AND
TO MAKE IMPOSSIBLE THEIR DEPARTURE FROM GREECE. MINISTER
OF PUBLIC ORDER SOLON GHIKAS IS SCHEDULED TO HOLD PRESS
CONFERENCE 1130 HOURS OCTOBER 23 ON ARRESTS OF PAPADOPOULOS
AND OTHER FOUR. ARRESTS ARE CHARACTERIZED AS "ADMINISTRATIVE
SENTENCE" BASED ON LAW PROVIDING FOR ARREST BY JOINT
ACTION OF MINISTERS OF INTERIOR AND PUBLIC ORDER WHEN
PROBABLE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IS APPARENT BUT CONCLUSIVE
EVIDENCE HAS NOT YET BEEN ADDUCED. DEPORTATION TO NEARBY
KEA ISLAND IS REPORTEDLY TO PERMIT EASY ACCESS TO ATHENS
FOR TRIALS. EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER AS ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.
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